

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, November 28, 2005
Volume 41—Number 47
Pages 1745–1771

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Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on November 25, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for \$80.00 per year (\$137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for \$93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is \$3.00 (\$3.75 for foreign mailing).

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US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
Washington DC 20402

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PRESORTED STANDARD
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Week Ending Friday, November 25, 2005

Proclamation 7963—Thanksgiving Day, 2005

November 18, 2005

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Thanksgiving Day is a time to remember our many blessings and to celebrate the opportunities that freedom affords. Explorers and settlers arriving in this land often gave thanks for the extraordinary plenty they found. And today, we remain grateful to live in a country of liberty and abundance. We give thanks for the love of family and friends, and we ask God to continue to watch over America.

This Thanksgiving, we pray and express thanks for the men and women who work to keep America safe and secure. Members of our Armed Forces, State and local law enforcement, and first responders embody our Nation's highest ideals of courage and devotion to duty. Our country is grateful for their service and for the support and sacrifice of their families. We ask God's special blessings on those who have lost loved ones in the line of duty.

We also remember those affected by the destruction of natural disasters. Their tremendous determination to recover their lives exemplifies the American spirit, and we are grateful for those across our Nation who answered the cries of their neighbors in need and provided them with food, shelter, and a helping hand. We ask for continued strength and perseverance as we work to rebuild these communities and return hope to our citizens.

We give thanks to live in a country where freedom reigns, justice prevails, and hope prospers. We recognize that America is a better place when we answer the universal call to love a neighbor and help those in need.

May God bless and guide the United States of America as we move forward.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 24, 2005, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage all Americans to gather together in their homes and places of worship with family, friends, and loved ones to reinforce the ties that bind us and give thanks for the freedoms and many blessings we enjoy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 22, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 19, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 23.

Remarks to United States Troops at Osan, South Korea

November 19, 2005

Thank you all. Thank you all very much. Please be seated—unless you don't have a seat. [Laughter] Laura and I are so honored to be here. We thought we'd stop by and feel the thunder and the fury of the Mustangs. Thanks for greeting us. It's a privilege to stand with the brave men and women of the 51st Fighter Wing and the 7th Air Force. Our citizens are safer because you're ready to fight tonight. You're serving the cause of liberty on distant frontiers, and I bring a message from home: Your Commander in Chief

is proud of you, and so is the American people.

For half a century, American service men and women have stood faithful and vigilant watch here in Korea. You've kept the peace, and you secured the freedom won at great cost in the Korean war. You've ensured that no American life was lost in vain. In five decades, since Task Force Smith first landed at Busan, the world has watched America's steadfast and unwavering commitment to freedom.

Three years of war made America and Korea enduring allies in the struggle for liberty. And five decades of sacrifice by the men and women of our Armed Forces secured peace and democracy on this peninsula. And the world is better off for it. Your courage has brought stability to the region, freedom to millions, and honor to the uniform. Our Nation is grateful for your service—your service for freedom and peace.

The Republic of Korea is now a beacon of liberty that shines across the most heavily armed border in the world. It is a light reaching to a land shrouded in darkness. Together the United States and the Republic of Korea have shown that the future belongs to freedom, and one day, all Koreans will enjoy the blessings of freedom.

I'm proud to be traveling with the First Lady, Laura Bush, and the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice. I thank General LaPorte and his wife, Judy. I want to thank General Trexler and his wife, Kathie; General Campbell; General Joe Reynes and his wife, Karen; Command Sergeant Major Barry Wheeler; Command—Chief Master Sergeant Vance Clarke; Chief Master Sergeant Richard Jette. Thank you all for being here.

I'm pleased to see the military families here. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your sacrifice in the cause of freedom. Our military families stand strong, and America appreciates you very much.

I visited Osan before, and I notice you've got an impressive runway here, a lot of room for any pilot, so as Air Force One was approaching, I told our pilot, "No excuses, you better spike it at Osan." [*Laughter*] And he did. This air base and runway were armed earned by the determination and the grit of the United States military and a brave coal-

ition of the willing. Not far from here, during the Korean war, Captain Lewis L. Millett took Hill 180. Faced with superior numbers, Captain Millett withheld communist forces by leading the first bayonet charge by a U.S. Army company since World War I. For his valor, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

As part of the 30,000 active duty personnel in Korea, you're upholding the same proud tradition. You know what it takes to win a war; you know how to protect the peace; and you know what it takes to defend our Nation.

To defend our country and to defend freedom, we've got more work ahead. For decades, America's Armed Forces abroad have essentially remained where the wars of the last century ended in Europe and in Asia. So more than 3 years ago, we launched a comprehensive review of America's global force posture, the numbers and types and locations and capability of our forces around the world.

We're transforming our military. Over the coming decade, we'll take advantage of 21st century military technologies so we can deploy rapidly with increased combat power. This will help improve the lives of our military and their families, because more of our troops will be stationed and deployed for home. And this will help us meet the threats of the 21st century. By transforming our military, we'll more be able to do our duty to protect the American people.

As South Korea has grown more free and prosperous, it's built an increasingly capable military that is now ready to assume a larger role in defending its people. By assuming some responsibilities that have traditionally been shouldered by American forces, South Korea will strengthen the deterrent on the Korean Peninsula and free up some of our combat forces to help us win the war on terror.

And that war began on September the 11th, 2001. On that morning, Americans saw the violence and hatred of a new enemy. We saw the terrorists' destructive vision for us and for all who love freedom. And in the face of this threat, our Nation has made a clear choice: We'll confront this mortal danger; we will stay on the offensive; we will

not wait to be attacked again; we will not rest or tire until the war on terror is won.

For more than 4 years, we've seen the brutal nature of the enemy. They've targeted the innocent in scores of countries, from almost every walk of life. In Casablanca, they killed diners enjoying their evening meal. In Bali, they killed tourists on a holiday. In Beslan, they killed Russian schoolchildren. They've murdered workers in Riyadh and commuters in Madrid and hotel guests in Jakarta and guests at a wedding celebration in Amman, Jordan. They killed Iraqi children. The tragic images of innocent victims can make it seem like these terrorist attacks are random, isolated acts of madness. While these killers choose their victims indiscriminately, their attacks flow from an ideology and a terrifying vision for the world. Their acts are evil, but they're not insane.

Some call this evil Islamic radicalism, others, militant jihadism, still others, Islamofascism. Whatever we choose to call this enemy, we must recognize that this ideology is very different from the tenets of the great religion of Islam. This form of radicalism exploits Islam to serve a violent, political vision: The establishment by terrorism, subversion, and insurgency of a totalitarian empire that denies all political and religious freedom.

We know the vision of the radicals because they openly state it in videos and audiotapes and letters and declarations and web sites. These extremists want to end American and Western influence in the broader Middle East, because we stand for democracy and peace and stand in the way of their ambitions. The tactics of Al Qaida and other Islamic extremists has been consistent for a quarter century. They hit us, and they expect us to run.

Recently, the world learned of a letter written by Al Qaida number two leader, a man named Zawahiri. He wrote this letter to his chief deputy in Iraq, the terrorist Zarqawi. In it, Zawahiri points to the Vietnam war as a model for Al Qaida. He writes, "The aftermath of the collapse of American power in Vietnam and how they ran and left their agents is noteworthy." The terrorists witnessed our response after the attacks of American—on American troops in Beirut in 1983 and Mogadishu in 1993. They con-

cluded that America can be made to run again, only this time on a larger scale with greater consequences. The terrorists are mistaken; America will never run. We will stand and fight, and we will win the war on terror.

The terrorists state their plans. They want to use the vacuum that would be created by an American retreat to gain control of a country, to build a base from which to launch attacks on America and to conduct their war against nonradical Muslim governments.

Over the past few decades, radicals have specifically targeted Egypt and Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and Jordan for potential takeovers. And for a time, they achieved their goal in Afghanistan, until they came face to face with the men and women of the United States military.

In Afghanistan, we put the terrorists on the run, and now they've set their sights on another country. They're trying to turn Iraq into what Afghanistan was under the Taliban, a terrorist sanctuary from which they can plan and launch attacks against our people. The terrorists regard Iraq as the central front in their war against humanity. And we must recognize Iraq as the central front in our war against the terrorists.

These militants believe that controlling one country will rally the Muslim masses, enabling them to overthrow moderate governments in the region and establish a radical Islamic empire that reaches from Spain to Indonesia. If they're not stopped, the terrorists will be able to advance their agenda to develop weapons of mass destruction, to destroy Israel, to intimidate Europe, and to break our will and blackmail our Government into isolation. I'm going to make you this commitment: This is not going to happen on my watch.

Some might be tempted to dismiss the terrorist goals as fanatical or extreme. They are fanatical and extreme, but we cannot afford to dismiss them. Evil men obsessed with ambition and unburdened by conscience must be taken very seriously. Against such an enemy, there's only one effective response: We will never back down, and we will never give in, and we'll never accept anything less than complete victory.

We didn't ask for this global struggle, but we're answering history's call with a comprehensive strategy to win this war on terror. First, we're determined to prevent attacks by terrorist networks by protecting the homeland and working with our allies to destroy the terrorist networks and incapacitate their leaders.

Together with our coalition partners, we've disrupted a number of serious Al Qaida terrorist plots since September the 11th, including several Al Qaida plots to attack inside the United States. Our coalition against terrorists killed or captured nearly all those directly responsible for the September the 11th attacks. We've captured or killed several of bin Laden's most senior deputies and Al Qaida managers and operatives in numerous countries. And we will stay on the hunt. We will not relent until the terror networks that threaten us are exposed and broken and their leaders are held to account for their murder.

Second, we're determined to deny weapons of mass destruction to outlaw regimes and to their terrorist allies who would use them without hesitation. Working with Great Britain and Pakistan and other nations, we exposed and disrupted a major black-market operation in nuclear technology led by A.Q. Khan. Libya has abandoned its chemical and nuclear weapons programs as well as its long-range ballistic missiles. And last year, America and our partners in the Proliferation Security Initiative have stopped more than a dozen shipments of suspect weapons technology, including equipment for Iran's ballistic missile program. So long as I'm your President, we'll continue to deny the world's most dangerous men the world's most dangerous weapons.

Third, we are determined to deny radical groups the support and sanctuary of outlaw regimes. So I've laid out a clear doctrine: The United States makes no distinction between those who commit acts of terror and those who support and harbor the terrorists, because they're equally guilty of murder. Any government that chooses to be an ally of terror has also chosen to be an enemy of civilization, and the civilized world will hold those regimes to account.

Fourth, we're determined to deny the militants control of any nation which they would

use as a home base and a launching pad for terror. This mission has brought new and urgent responsibilities to all who wear the uniform. American troops are fighting beside our Afghan partners against remnants of the Taliban and their Al Qaida allies. And American troops are fighting alongside courageous Iraqis against the remnants of a regime and a network of terrorists who want to stop the advance of a free Iraq. Our goal is to defeat the terrorists and allies—and their allies at the heart of their power. And so we will defeat the enemy in Iraq.

As we pursue the terrorists, our military is helping to train Iraqi security forces so they can defend their people and so they can fight the enemy. And we're making steady progress. With every passing month, more and more Iraqi forces are standing up and the Iraqi military is gaining new capabilities and new confidence. At the time of our Fallujah operations a year ago, there were only a few Iraqi army battalions in combat. Today, there are more than 90 Iraqi army battalions fighting the terrorists along with our forces. American and Iraqi troops are conducting major assaults to clear out enemy fighters in Baghdad and other parts of Iraq. Iraqi police and security forces are helping clear the terrorists from their strongholds. They're holding onto areas we've cleared and are preventing the enemy from returning.

Our strategy can be summed up this way: As Iraqis stand up, we will stand down. And when our commanders on the ground tell me that Iraqi forces can defend their freedom, our troops will come home with the honor they have earned.

The second part of our strategy is a political strategy. Iraqis are moving forward in building a democracy. A month ago, millions of Iraqis turned out to vote for a constitution that guarantees fundamental freedoms and lays the foundation for lasting democracy. In a few weeks, Iraqis will vote again to choose a fully constitutional government to lead them for the next 4 years. Iraq is making amazing progress from the days of being under the thumb of a brutal dictator. Think about this: In 2½ years, they've gone from tyranny to an election for a Transitional Government to the ratification of a constitution to the election of a free government. The

Iraqi people are proving their determination to build a future founded on democracy and hope, and the United States of America will help them succeed.

The fifth element of our strategy in the war on terror is to deny the militants future recruits by replacing hatred and resentment with democracy and hope across the broader Middle East. If the Middle East is left to grow in bitterness, if countries remain in misery while radicals stir the resentments of millions, then that part of the world will be a source of endless conflict and mounting danger. If the peoples of that region are permitted to choose their own destiny and advance by their own energy and participation as both free men and women, then the extremists will be marginalized, and the flow of violent radicalism to the rest of the world will slow and eventually end. History has proven that free nations are peaceful nations and that democracies do not fight their neighbors. By advancing the hope of freedom and democracy for others, we'll make our own freedom more secure.

Our men and women in uniform who are serving on the Korean Peninsula have seen freedom succeed in Asia. By promoting freedom in Japan, we helped transform an enemy into a democracy that is one of the world's most prosperous nations and one of America's most trusted allies. By standing firm against a determined enemy, we helped provide the people of South Korea with the peace and stability they needed to transform their economy and claim their own freedom. And by helping the people of Asia build successful and thriving democracies, we have helped set a hopeful example for the world. In the 21st century, we go forward with confidence because we know that freedom is the destiny of every man, woman, and child on this Earth.

Our work for peace and freedom involves great sacrifice by our troops. We see this sacrifice in Iraq, where our troops are hunting down the terrorists, and we're helping the Iraqi people build a working democracy. In Washington, there are some who say that the sacrifice is too great, and they urge us to set a date for withdrawal before we have completed our mission. Those who are in the fight know better. One of our top com-

manders in Iraq, Major General William Webster, says that setting a deadline for our withdrawal from Iraq would be, "A recipe for disaster." General Webster is right. So long as I'm the Commander in Chief, our strategy in Iraq will be driven by the sober judgment of our military commanders on the ground. We will fight the terrorists in Iraq. We will stay in the fight until we have achieved the brave—the victory that our brave troops have fought for.

In this time of war and sacrifice, the greatest burden falls on our military families. We've lost some of our Nation's finest men and women in the war on terror. Each of these men and women left grieving families and loved ones back home. Each loss of life is heartbreaking. And the best way to honor the sacrifices of our fallen troops is to complete their mission and lay the foundation of peace for our children and our grandchildren.

With the rise of a deadly enemy and the unfolding of a global ideological struggle, our time in history will be remembered for new challenges and unprecedented dangers. And yet this fight we have joined is also the current expression of an ancient struggle between those who put their faith in dictators and those who put their faith in the people. Throughout history, tyrants and would-be tyrants have always claimed that murder is justified to serve their grand vision, and they end up alienating decent people across the globe. Tyrants and would-be tyrants have always claimed that regimented societies are strong and pure, until those societies collapse in corruption and decay. Tyrants and would-be tyrants have always claimed that free men and women are weak and decadent, until the day that free men and women defeat them.

We don't know the course our own struggle will take or the sacrifices that might lie ahead. We do know, however, that the defense of freedom is worth our sacrifice. We know that the love of freedom is the mightiest force in history. And we do know the cause of freedom will once again prevail.

May God bless you all. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:29 p.m. at Osan Air Base. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. Leon J. LaPorte, USA, commander, United Nations

Command, ROK/US Combined Forces Command, and U.S. Forces Korea, and his wife, Judy; Lt. Gen. Garry R. Trexler, USAF, deputy commander, United Nations Command and U.S. Forces Korea, and commander, Air Component Command, Republic of Korea, and 7th Air Force, and his wife, Kathie; Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell, USA, commanding general, 8th U.S. Army, and chief of staff, United Nations Command, ROK/US Combined Forces Command, and U.S. Forces Korea; Brig. Gen. Joseph Reynes, Jr., USAF, commander, 51st Fighter Wing, and his wife, Karen; CSM Barry C. Wheeler, USA, command sergeant major, United Nations Command, ROK/US Combined Forces Command, U.S. Forces Korea, and 8th United States Army; CMSgt. Vance M. Clarke, USAF, command chief master sergeant, 7th Air Force Command; CMSgt. Richard E. Jette, USAF, command chief master sergeant, 51st Fighter Wing; Ayman Al-Zawahiri, founder of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and senior Al Qaida associate; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; A.Q. Khan, former head of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program; Saddam Hussein, former President of Iraq; and Maj. Gen. William G. Webster, Jr., USA, commander, Multinational Division Baghdad and Task Force Baghdad. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's Radio Address

November 19, 2005

Good morning. I am currently traveling in Asia on a trip to Japan, South Korea, China, and Mongolia. I'm visiting with friends and allies in the region to discuss issues vital to the future of all Americans.

One important issue for American workers, entrepreneurs, businesses, and farmers is to access foreign markets for our goods, services, and farm products. At the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in South Korea, we have advanced America's case for free and fair trade.

The leaders of the 20 other Asian-Pacific member economies join the United States in a strong statement aimed at moving forward the Doha round of negotiations at the World Trade Organization. By pushing for a successful conclusion to the trade talks, Asian-Pacific leaders are working with us toward the goal of a freer and fairer global trading

system, which will benefit America and other nations around the world.

I'm also raising the issue of free and fair trade and open markets in my one-on-one meetings with other leaders. In my discussions with Prime Minister Koizumi of Japan, I urged him to lift his nation's ban on American beef. The Prime Minister assured me that we are making good progress on this issue. Japan's Food Safety Commission has ruled that beef from young American cattle is safe. I expect that the Japanese Government will follow through on the recommendations of the commission so that America's beef industry and cattlemen will have access to a market that has been closed to them for almost 2 years.

I will also raise important trade issues on Sunday during my meeting in Beijing with President Hu of China. Access to American markets has played an important role in China's economic development. And China needs to provide a level playing field for American farmers and businesses seeking access to China's market. The United States supported China's membership in the World Trade Organization because we believe that the cause of free and fair trade is advanced if China plays by the same global rules as everyone else.

When I met with President Hu in New York earlier this year, he said that China would bring more balance to our trade and protect intellectual property rights. I welcomed those commitments, just as I welcomed China's announcement in July that it would implement a flexible market-based exchange system for its currency. These statements are a good beginning, but China needs to take action to ensure these goals are fully implemented.

The textile agreement our two nations recently reached shows that with hard work and determination, we can come together to resolve difficult trading issues. The agreement adds certainty and predictability for businesses in both America and China. I look forward to frank discussions on Sunday with President Hu about our need to find solutions to our trade differences with China.

America is drawn by trade and values and history to be part of Asia's future. The extraordinary economic growth of the Asia-Pacific region has delivered prosperity to millions of people, and it has created many new opportunities for American workers, farmers, and businesses. America is a nation founded on the idea of open exchange. And we know that free and fair trade benefits all sides.

We also know that American workers can compete with anybody, any time, anywhere when the rules are fair. By opening new markets, we will create more good jobs in America. By ensuring fair access for American goods and services and securing intellectual property rights, we will level the playing field for our workers, farmers, and businesses. And by working for free and fair trade, we will help deliver a better life for all Americans and advance the cause of peace and prosperity in the world.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:00 p.m. on November 18 in the Westin Chosun Hotel, Busan, South Korea, for broadcast at 11:06 a.m., eastern standard time, on November 19, after the President's schedule of activities in South Korea for that day had been completed. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 18 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his address, the President referred to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and President Hu Jintao of China. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on Signing the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2006

November 19, 2005

I have signed into law H.R. 2419, the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2006." The Act funds programs of the Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers, and several other agencies, and provides funds to help protect the Nation's environment.

The executive branch shall construe sections 101 and 303 of the Act as calling for, but not mandating, consultation with the

Congress as a precondition to the execution of a law, as is consistent with the Constitution's provisions concerning the separate powers of the Congress to legislate and the President to execute the laws.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 19, 2005.

NOTE: H.R. 2419, approved November 19, was assigned Public Law No. 109-103. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 20. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Remarks Following a Church Service in Beijing, China

November 20, 2005

Pastor, Laura and I thank you very much for your hospitality. Our friend Luis Palau from America, is here as well. You gave a great sermon. The spirit of the Lord is very strong inside your church. We thank you for carrying a message of love, like you did.

You know, it wasn't all that long ago that people were not allowed to worship openly in this society. My hope is that the Government of China will not fear Christians who gather to worship openly. A healthy society is a society that welcomes all faiths and gives people a chance to express themselves through worship with the Almighty. So we welcome—we really thank you for letting us come by, and we ask for God's blessing.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:22 a.m. at Gangwashi Protestant Church. In his remarks, he referred to Ying Dufeng, pastor, Gangwashi Protestant Church; and Luis Palau, founder, Luis Palau Association. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks During an Expanded Meeting With President Hu Jintao of China in Beijing

November 20, 2005

Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, thank you for arranging such beautiful weather; it's a beautiful day.

Secondly, thank you for the very frank and candid discussion we just had on a range of issues. China is an exciting country, and it's an important country. And this visit is a chance for you and me to continue a very important relationship.

I invited the President to come to America as soon as he can, and I look forward to welcoming you, Mr. President, in our country, so we can continue our dialog on how to make our relations as open and constructive for people in both our countries.

And so I really look forward to your hospitality, and thank you for such a warm opening ceremony. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:13 a.m. in the Fujian Room at the Great Hall of the People. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Hu in Beijing

November 20, 2005

President Hu. The honorable President, George W. Bush, dear friends from the media, ladies, and gentlemen: I'm delighted to have this opportunity to meet with the press, and to begin with, I would like to extend a warmest welcome to President Bush. Welcome to China.

Just now I had a friendly and candid talk with President Bush. The two sides were able to have an indepth exchange of views on the China-U.S. relationship as well as on major international and regional issues of shared interest.

We both are very delighted to see the good development in the China-U.S. relationship over a recent period of time. We both believe that to keep the China-U.S. relationship on a track of sustained, healthy, and stable development is not only what is required by our times but also the shared aspiration of our two peoples.

We both agree to view and handle the China-U.S. relationship from a strategic plane and in a long-term perspective, jointly acceptable by our common interests, properly handle each other's concerns, increase our mutual understanding, expand our common ground, and deepen our mutual trust,

in an effort to comprehensively move forward the China-U.S. constructive and cooperative relationship in the 21st century.

We both believe that it serves the common interests of our two countries and two peoples to further expand the economic cooperation and trade between our two countries. The two sides will continue to follow the principle of equality, mutual benefit, and common development, and continuously expand the scope of our cooperation in an effort to achieve mutual benefit and win-win results.

The two sides also expressed their willingness to join hands together to gradually achieve a balanced trade between China and the United States in the process of further expanding the trade between the two countries. The frictions and problems that may arise in this rapid development of the two-way trade may be properly addressed through consultations.

I made it clear to Mr. President that the Chinese side is willing to step up its protection for intellectual property rights, enhance its efforts in fighting crime involving the violations of intellectual property rights, and stands ready to further increase its cooperation with the United States in this regard. We will follow the principle of benefiting not only China but also the world at large and unswervingly press ahead with the reform of the formation mechanism for the RNB exchange rate.

We both indicated our willingness to deepen our counterterrorism cooperation on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit. The two sides have already reached a memorandum of understanding on their cooperation on the Megaport Initiative.

We both agree to further expand the exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in such fields as culture, education, science and technology, and youth.

We both believe that the spread and the possible spread to humans of the avian flu is a common threat facing all countries in this world, and we reached an agreement on strengthening a joint initiative on better cooperation in the prevention and control of the avian flu. And we will jointly support and

take part in the prevention and control cooperation of avian flu in the region and the world at large.

I reaffirmed to President Bush that the Chinese Government and that the Chinese people are committed to peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, and we are ready to do our utmost with all sincerity to strive for the prospect of a peaceful reunification of our country. This being said, we will by no means tolerate so-called Taiwan independence. I highly appreciate that President Bush has, on various occasions, stated his commitment to the “one China” policy, the three Sino-U.S. joint communiques, and his opposition to so-called Taiwan independence. To oppose and check so-called Taiwan independence and safeguard peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait serves the common interest of China and the United States.

We both believe that China and United States share broad, common interests on a number of important issues like the U.N. reform, the development issue facilitating the Doha round negotiations, addressing regional flashpoints, preventing and tackling terrorism, and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, preventing and controlling natural disasters, and controlling epidemic and other major diseases. And we also shoulder great common responsibilities in all those areas. The two sides both agree to step up their cooperation in the affairs in the Asia-Pacific region and in the world arena.

We both said that major progress for current stage has been produced at the fourth round of the six-party talks, and as far as the first phase of the fifth round of the six-party talks is concerned, generally speaking, the atmosphere has been businesslike and pragmatic. The two sides will continue to work together with other parties involved to move forward the process of the six-party talks in an endeavor to peacefully resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula at an early date.

Besides, I also briefed President Bush about China’s unswerving commitment to a role of peaceful development and China’s development in terms of democratic politics and human rights. China’s commitment to a role of peaceful development is a choice

that China must make in light of its national conditions. It’s a choice that China must make on the basis of its historical and cultural heritage, and also a choice that China must make in light of the current trend in the development of the world. China’s development is peaceful, open, and cooperative in nature.

Ever since the founding of the People’s Republic several decades ago, and particularly since the start of China’s reforms and opening up, notable and historic progress has been made in China’s development of a democratic political system and human rights. The Chinese people are exercising their right of democratic elections, democratic decisionmaking, democratic management, and democratic supervision, according to law.

In the future, we’ll continue to take into account China’s national conditions and follow the wishes of the Chinese people and continuously build democratic politics of Chinese characteristics in the process of continuously raising the level of human rights enjoyed by the Chinese people.

Win-win cooperation is the mainstream of the China-U.S. relationship. Given their different histories, cultures, and national conditions, it is inevitable that China and the United States may have some different opinions on some issues. The two sides ought to follow a spirit of mutual respect and seeking common ground while reserving their differences and act on the basis of the basic norms governing international relations and handle and advance their differences properly through dialog.

President Bush issued a kind invitation to me for a visit to the United States, which I accepted with pleasure. Ladies and gentlemen, looking ahead, the Chinese side is willing to work together with the U.S. side to continuously move forward the China-U.S. relationship and continuously move forward the lofty cause of mankind, peace, and development, to the benefit of the Chinese and American peoples and people throughout the world.

Thank you. Now the floor is yours, Mr. President.

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you very much, and thank you for your hospitality. Laura and I are glad to be back in China. And I thank you for the constructive conversation we just had.

The United States and China share many common opportunities and challenges in the 21st century. We're important trading partners. We benefit from a system of free and fair trade. We'll continue to work with China to open up markets and level the playing field for American goods and services and work with China to strengthen protection of intellectual property rights. And we'll continue to work with China to help implement its July commitment to a flexible market-based currency.

It is important that social, political, and religious freedoms grow in China. And we encourage China to continue making the historic transition to greater freedom.

The United States expresses our deepest condolences to China for the Chinese citizens killed in the terrorist attack in Amman, Jordan. Terrorism is a threat to both our countries, and I welcome China's cooperation in the war against terror.

Our two nations seek a Korean Peninsula that is stable, at peace, and free of nuclear weapons. Thank you for taking a lead in the six-party talks. The fourth round of the six-party talks in September ended with a joint statement in which North Korea committed to abandon all nuclear weapons and all existing nuclear programs. The United States expects them to honor that commitment.

And we had a good talk about energy. China is a growing economy, and China recognizes, like the United States recognizes, in order to keep our economies growing in the years to come, we've got to share technologies and diversify away from hydrocarbons.

Our two countries are working together to address the threat of the pandemic disease through the international partnership on avian and pandemic influenza. Mr. President, thank you for your lead on this issue. The President gave a very strong statement at APEC about the need for all of us to work together on a potential pandemic.

The relationship between China and the United States is an important relationship.

This trip will make it stronger. And Mr. President, Laura and I look forward to welcoming you and Madam Liu to the White House next year. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. in the Hebei Room at the Great Hall of the People. In his remarks, he referred to Liu Yongqing, wife of President Hu.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Premier Wen Jiabao of China in Beijing

November 20, 2005

Thank you. It's good to see you again, sir. I remember our visit very well. And I thank you for this invitation to come and talk and have lunch. It will give us a chance to continue to strengthen this very important relationship. And I agree with you; it's a relationship where we've got common interests. We don't agree on every issue, but we do agree we should discuss our differences and our likenesses in a cordial manner.

And so I look forward to this meeting a lot. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:07 p.m. at the Diaoyutai Guest House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters in Beijing

November 20, 2005

President's Visit to China/Domestic Debate on Iraq

The President. Thank you all. We started our day here going to a church service that was really uplifting. I was—I wasn't sure what to expect, and I can tell you that the service was full of spirit, and the preacher gave a really good sermon. She was—I'm sure you made her nervous with all the cameras and everything, but she was really good. And it was a wonderful way to start the morning.

As I mentioned to the President as well as to you all on the steps of the church, a society that welcomes religion is a wholesome society; it's a whole society. And I felt

like the church service was a affirmation of my strong belief that people should be able to worship freely, and I shared that with President Hu.

I was also pleased with our talks with both President Hu and Premier Wen. We have a complex relationship, and it's a really important relationship. I mean, China is a big, growing, strong country. And it's very important for me to maintain a good working relationship with the leadership here. And we've got that. And the reason that's important is that it enables me to talk about the values that are important to America. It also enables me to talk about the interests of our workers and farmers. China is a trading partner, and we expect the trade with China to be fair. We expect our people to be treated fairly here in this important country.

And so I had a chance to talk about a variety of subjects, intellectual property rights and the currency, access to our markets for U.S. beef. And it was a good, frank discussion.

Finally, I had a bike ride. I'd like to clarify my comments. Compared to Crawford, this trail is a great bike trail and really difficult. It is clear that I couldn't make the Chinese Olympic cycling team. But I really enjoyed it. It was a lot of fun to ride with those six young Chinese athletes, and I hope they enjoyed it as well. It was a good experience.

There's also an important debate underway back in Washington about the way forward in Iraq. I particularly want to discuss the position that Democrat Congressman John Murtha announced this past week. Let me start off by saying that Congressman Murtha is a fine man, a good man, who served our country with honor and distinction as a marine in Vietnam and as a United States Congressman. He is a strong supporter of the United States military. And I know the decision to call for an immediate withdrawal of our troops by Congressman Murtha was done in a careful and thoughtful way.

I disagree with his position. An immediate withdrawal of our troops from Iraq will only strengthen the terrorists' hand in Iraq and in the broader war on terror. That's the goal of the enemy. They want to break our will in Iraq so that we leave and they can turn Iraq into what Afghanistan was under the

Taliban, a safe haven for terror, a place where they can plot and plan attacks against America and freedom-loving countries around the world.

Our military strategy is aimed at targeting the terrorists and training the Iraqis. Iraq authorities have made clear they want us to help them. They want us to help them defeat the terrorists, and they want us to train their own security forces, which is what we're doing.

I also recognize that the Iraqi people look forward to the day when Iraqi forces can secure their country and defend their freedom. It's only natural that the Iraqi people look forward to the day when they're fully prepared to defeat this enemy. I look forward to the day when the Iraqis are fully prepared to do that.

And we're making good progress. More and more Iraqis are taking the fight to the enemy, and day by day, they're assuming more responsibility for their own security. And as the Iraqi security forces gain strength and experience, we can lessen our troop presence in the country without losing our capability to effectively defeat the terrorists. A reduced presence of coalition forces will clearly demonstrate to the Iraqi people that we have no ambitions to occupy their country. As I've often said, we'll stay as long as necessary but not one day more.

Yet, leaving prematurely will have terrible consequences for our own security and for the Iraqi people. And that's not going to happen so long as I'm the President.

This is a debate worthy of our country. It's an important debate. It does not have to be a partisan issue. Fine Democrats like Senator Joe Lieberman share the view that we must prevail in Iraq. Bipartisan majorities in the House and the Senate rejected calls for immediate withdrawal. My decisions in Iraq will continue to be guided by the sober judgment of the military commanders on the ground in Iraq. Those elected leaders in Washington who do not support our policies in Iraq have every right to voice their dissent. They also have a responsibility to provide a credible alternative. The stakes are too high and the national interest too important for anything otherwise.

Now I'll be glad to answer some questions, starting with Jennifer [Jennifer Loven, Associated Press].

China and Freedom

Q. Thank you, sir. Can you talk about why you have chosen to talk more about the need for greater religious freedoms in China than the need for greater political freedom?

The President. Well, they go hand in hand. A society which recognizes religious freedom is a society which will recognize political freedoms as well. China has undergone an amazing transformation in its economy. It's a much freer economy than any time in its past. And as a result, the people are becoming more prosperous. I've always believed that a free economy will yield a freer political system.

I think about South Korea. South Korea opened its economy up, and then political reforms followed. And part of a system which recognizes the right of people to express themselves is a system which also recognizes the right of people to worship freely. And in my discussions with the leadership in China, of course, I talked about both political and religious freedom.

Caren [Caren Bohan, Reuters].

Discussions With President Hu

Q. Do you feel that you got the commitments that you sought from President Hu on issues like currency reform and trade? And also, are you concerned about a crackdown reported on Chinese dissidents ahead of your visit?

The President. I'm always concerned about somebody who is trying to express themselves in the public square, express their opinion, being cracked down by a state. And it's—again, in my discussions with President Hu, I talked about a variety of concerns, one, that the NGOs here in China ought to be treated fairly, secondly, that we have given the Chinese Government a list of dissidents that we believe are improperly imprisoned.

I talked about the Dalai Lama. I thought it would be wise for the Chinese Government to invite the Dalai Lama so he can tell them exactly what he told me in the White House the other day, that he has no desire for an independent Tibet. I talked about the Catho-

lic Church, the need for this Government to invite leaders from the Vatican to come and discuss religious freedoms in China. So we discussed a lot of areas of concern about the condition of the dissidents and people who want to express themselves.

In terms of the currency, this Government made a decision last July to reform their currency. It was a structural reform, and I applauded that. I also reminded the leaders that we've seen some movement but not much in the currency valuation. And I explained to them as clearly as I could that the value of the Chinese currency is very important for manufacturers and farmers and workers in the United States.

In terms of intellectual property rights, that's been a concern that many have expressed to me in our country and wanted me to express to the leadership in China. And I made it clear that if you've got a vibrant economy and people feel uncomfortable about the piracy of product, that it's going to affect the economy in the long run. And they recognize that. As a matter of fact, Premier Wen went through a list of crackdowns this Government has taken on intellectual property rights.

I talked about market access, the need to make sure that we've got access to Chinese markets like they've got to ours. And that's a very important subject in America, as you know, and it's one that I relayed to both President Hu and Premier Wen. I applauded the fact that through hard work, that we came up with a good textile agreement, which was important. I was pleased to see that the Chinese Government ordered Boeing aircraft.

The relationship, however, is one that it's got to be close enough that we can—need to consistently remind our Chinese friends that structural reform is really what the United States Government is talking about with China.

Let's see—Bill Roberts [Bloomberg News].

Domestic Debate on Iraq

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Yes.

Q. It used to be that it was said that politics stopped at the water's edge. On this trip,

clearly, the debate over Iraq has followed you. Were you at all disappointed by that? And why do you think it is that the Iraq debate in the last week has been so intense?

The President. Well, I'm not surprised that people are talking about Iraq. Iraq is a vital issue for the United States of America. And it's—we're at war, and people, of course, have got strong opinions about war. On the trip here, by the way, I was most pleased that many of the leaders at the APEC conference understood the stakes in Iraq, that a democracy in the heart of the Middle East will make the entire world more peaceful.

It's—this is a worthy debate, and I'm going to repeat something I've said before. People should feel comfortable about expressing their opinions about Iraq. I heard somebody say, "Well, maybe so-and-so is not patriotic because they disagree with my position." I totally reject that thought. This is not an issue of who's patriot and who's not patriotic. It's an issue of an honest, open debate about the way forward in Iraq.

I am confident we will succeed in Iraq. I'm confident that the Iraqi forces will be trained. I am confident the political process will, slowly but surely, marginalize those that are trying to stop the march of democracy. And I also know that we have got to make sure that Iraq does not become a safe haven for terrorists. It's very important for—during this debate to listen to the words of Zawahiri, who's the number two man of Al Qaida, where he has made it very clear that his intention and the intention of his henchman, Zarqawi, is to drive us out of Iraq before we have completed the mission.

And there's a reason why he wants us out of Iraq, because he wants Iraq to be a safe haven. He wants to be able to find a place where he and his forces can plot and plan against the United States of America. They were—the Al Qaida, the enemy was able to do just that in Afghanistan. They plotted and planned a monstrous attack on the United States of America. And that attack of September the 11th is a lesson we should never forget.

Secondly, a democracy in Iraq is going to send a clear example of what is possible to other reformers in the region. There are people in Iran that are interested in freedom.

And when Iraq succeeds, the people in Iran will see what is possible, that it's possible to have a government that actually listens to the people and responds to the needs of the people. A free Iraq will send a clear example to the Palestinians of what is possible in the Middle East. I believe there will be a Palestinian state that is democratic in nature and at peace with its neighbor, Israel. Lebanon is an example of a society which is shedding itself of a—of its neighbor, Syria, and it's strengthening its democracy.

You know, it's interesting here in the Far East that we have this discussion about Iraq, and it's an appropriate place to think about the stakes in Iraq, because, after all, Japan was our sworn enemy. And after World War II, the Japanese adopted a Japanese-style democracy, which yielded a peaceful partner, an ally. It's amazing to think that in 60 years Japan has gone from enemy to ally in keeping the peace. The spread of democracies here in the Far East have made this part of the world a peaceful region.

And so the stakes are enormously high in Iraq, and I can understand why there's a debate. And I suspect there's going to be a debate for a long time coming in Iraq, as there should be. This is a serious matter of national concern.

Let's see—Suzanne [Suzanne Malveaux, CNN].

Representative Murtha/U.S. Strategy in Iraq

Q. If I could follow up on your comments on Congressman Murtha. You said that he was a fine man and that he probably made this in a thoughtful manner. Congressman Murtha has also used the fact that neither you nor the Vice President has served in combat as part of his criticism of Iraq policy as well as the administration's campaign to defend it. Do you believe that that is relevant to the debate? And is there any concern that the attacks on either side are becoming overly personal?

The President. I don't think the Vice President's service is relevant in this debate. And I would hope all of us in this debate talk about the policy and have an honest, open debate about whether or not it makes sense to immediately withdraw our troops.

My position is very clear: It does not make sense. It will make America less secure. Iraq is a battlefield in the war on terror, and it's vital that we succeed in this particular battle in the war on terror.

And our strategy is proceeding. There's a political strategy, and as I said the other day, I said a couple of times, the progress in Iraq is amazing when you think—the political progress. I mean, they've gone from tyranny to the election of a Transitional National Government, to the ratification of a constitution. And they're about to have elections again. And all this took place in 2½ years. When you compare it to our own history, our road was quite bumpy getting to a constitution. And so the progress is strong.

The other progress that's being made is the training of the Iraqi forces. And more and more of the forces are more capable of taking the fight to the enemy. And as that happens and as our commanders on the ground inform me that Iraq's security can be maintained by Iraqi troops, we will adjust accordingly.

Let's see—Mike [Mike Allen, Washington Post].

Religious Freedom in China

Q. Thank you very much, Mr. President. If I might follow up Jennifer's question. When you expressed to President Hu the importance of people being able to worship freely, did he express any interest in helping people of various faiths do that? Did he make any commitment to you for improvements? And Mr. President, how repressed or restricted do you believe Christians are right now in this country?

The President. It's a really interesting question. You know, Dr. Luis Palau was with me, and we spent time in the limousine on the way to the church talking about his views of Christianity here in China. He believes there are about a hundred million Christians, and that they are—they're worshipping in a way that is able to call upon the Almighty to help them through their lives. And that's the spirit I found in the church.

President Hu is a thoughtful fellow. He listened to what I had to say. And I thought it was very interesting in his comments that he talked about human rights. Those who

watch China closely would say that maybe a decade ago a leader wouldn't have uttered those comments. He talked about democracy. And so to answer your question, he took it on board in a very thoughtful manner.

Herman [Ken Herman, Austin American-Statesman], last question.

China-U.S. Relations

Q. Respectfully, sir—and you know we're always respectful—[laughter]—

The President. Most of the time.

Q. —in your statement this morning with President Hu, you seemed a little off your game. You seemed to hurry through your statement, and there was a lack of enthusiasm—

The President. When? Here, right now?

Q. No, this morning with President Hu. Was something bothering you? Were you tired?

The President. Have you ever heard of jetlag?

Q. Yes, sir.

The President. Well, good. That answers your question.

Q. There was nothing he said, I mean, in the meeting?

The President. No, not at all. Listen, the relationship with China is a good, vibrant, strong relationship. And we have frank discussions, and that's what you want at my level of Government. You want to be able to sit down with somebody and say, "Look, here are my concerns."

I always say that the relationship between America and China is an important relationship. This is a booming economy. This is a—China is a big presence in Asia. And it's very vital for the United States to have a relationship where I can sit down and say, "Look, the trade policy must take into consideration your currency, must take into consideration our desire to sell you beef, must take into consideration intellectual property rights." And I can do that in such a way that he doesn't say, "I'm tired of listening to you." It's a—it's an important relationship.

We have—we're working together with North Korea. The leader in North Korea has—must abandon his nuclear weapons programs in a verifiable fashion. The Chinese

understand that and have accepted that position. The fact that China and the United States can work on this issue as equal partners is important for the stability of this region and the world.

In other words, my point to you is, is that we've got a very vibrant relationship. I don't know what I sounded like during my discussion. As you know, I don't spend a lot of time analyzing myself and, obviously, you do. But—

Q. We have a lot of time on our hands, Mr. President. [*Laughter*]

The President. Yes, you do. [*Laughter*] But I am pleased that I am in a—I am in a position to be able to explain to President Hu, as clearly as I can, my concerns and my appreciation for different aspects of our relationship.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:12 p.m. at the St. Regis Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Ying Dufeng, pastor, Gangwashi Protestant Church; President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao of China; the Dalai Lama of Tibet; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; Ayman Al-Zawahiri, founder of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and senior Al Qaida associate; Luis Palau, founder, Luis Palau Association; and Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia November 21, 2005

Amar bain uu? Thanks for the warm welcome. And Mr. President, thank you for your hospitality. I thank you, the Prime Minister, and the Government for such gracious hospitality. I want to thank the First Lady for being so kind to Laura. It is really, really an honor to be here in your great country. And we bring with us the good wishes of the American people.

I'm here on an important international mission. Secretary Rumsfeld asked me to check on his horse. [*Laughter*] I feel very much at home here in your country. This is a beautiful land with huge skies and vast horizons, kind of like Texas. I thank you for the invitation. I'm honored to be the first sitting American President to visit Mongolia, and

America is proud to call you the third neighbor.

Fifteen years ago, Mongolians gathered outside this great hall by the thousands, braving subzero temperatures and defying a repressive regime to demand their liberty. The protesters included students and workers and monks and a group of young democrats on a hunger strike. By the force of their convictions, they drove the communist leadership from power. Within months, free elections were held, and a free Mongolia was born. And today, one of the young hunger strikers who stood vigil outside the building now serves as the Prime Minister of your great nation.

Mongolia has made the transition from communism to freedom, and in just 15 years, you've established a vibrant democracy and opened up your economy. You're an example of success for this region and for the world. I know the transition to liberty has not always been easy, and Americans admire your patience and your determination. By your daily efforts, you're building a better life for your children and your grandchildren. And I've come to tell you, as you build a free society in the heart of Central Asia, the American people stand with you.

Earlier this year, when a terrible hurricane struck my Nation's gulf coast, the Mongolian people stood with us. Even before the flood waters had fully receded, your Government pledged aid, and a group of business leaders in Mongolia raised additional money. These funds are helping to rebuild shattered lives in my country. In a time of tragedy for America, Mongolia showed her compassionate heart, and my country thanks you for your support and friendship.

Americans and Mongolians have much in common. Both our nations were settled by pioneers on horseback who tamed the rugged plains. Both our nations shook the yoke of colonial rule and built successful free societies. And both our nations know that our responsibilities in freedom's cause do not end at our borders and that survival of liberty in our own lands increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands.

This conviction has inspired the Mongolian people to share the hope of freedom with

others who have not known it. Mongolian officers have served in missions to keep the peace in Western Sahara and the Congo. Your forces are serving alongside U.S. and coalition forces helping to train the armed forces of a free Afghanistan. And in September, Mongolia sent its fifth rotation of forces to Iraq, and Mongolian soldiers are serving in that country with courage and great distinction.

Two Mongolian soldiers named Sergeants Azzaya and Sambuu-Yondon are here with us today. In Iraq, they risked their lives to stop a suicide bomber who was trying to drive a truck full of explosives into a coalition mess tent. As the truck hurtled towards them, they opened fire, killing the terrorist and saving countless lives. As Commander in Chief of the United States Armed Forces, I thank these brave Mongolian soldiers and all who have served on the frontlines of the war on terror. The Mongolian Armed Forces are serving the cause of freedom, and the United States Armed Forces are proud to serve beside such fearless warriors.

In Iraq, Mongolian forces have helped make possible a stunning transformation. Earlier this year, Iraqis went to the polls and chose their leaders in free elections. Last month, they returned to the polls and approved a democratic constitution for a free Iraq. And in a few weeks time, Iraqis will vote once again to choose a fully constitutional government to lead them for the next 4 years. With their ballots, the Iraqi people are sending a clear message: There will be no return to the days of tyranny and terror; the future of Iraq belongs to freedom.

Many of you can still recall the exhilaration of voting freely for the first time after decades of tyranny. You know the satisfaction of seeing leaders you chose take office and of seeing them leave office if you decide to replace them. You know the feeling of living under a constitution that guarantees personal liberties like free speech, free assembly, and equality before the law. And now, because of the courage of Mongolian and coalition forces, the people of Iraq know this feeling as well.

In Iraq, the advance of freedom is opposed by determined adversaries, the followers of a murderous ideology, who exploit the reli-

gion of Islam to serve a violent political vision. They kill the innocent in pursuit of a totalitarian empire that denies all political and religious freedom. Like the ideology of communism, the ideology of Islamic radicalism is led by a self-appointed vanguard that presumes to speak for the masses. Like the ideology of communism, Islamic radicalism teaches the innocent can be murdered to serve their brutal aims. Like the ideology of communism, Islamic radicalism is dismissive of free peoples, claiming that men and women who live in liberty are weak and decadent. And like the ideology of communism, the ideology of Islamic radicalism is destined to fall because the will to power is no match for the universal desire to live in liberty.

Free people did not falter in the cold war, and free people will not falter in the war on terror. We see the determination to live in freedom in the courage of Iraqi and Afghan citizens who defied the terrorists to cast their ballots. We see it in the bravery of ordinary Lebanese who waved cedar flags and drove an occupying power from their borders. And we've seen it in the daily courage of the Mongolian people who claimed their freedom 15 years ago and are now standing with others across the world to help them do the same.

As you help others secure the blessings of liberty, you continue the work of building a free society here at home, and as you travel this path, the United States walks with you. Earlier this year, I announced a new Solidarity Initiative to provide financial assistance to nations like Mongolia that are standing with America in the war on terror. Mongolia will receive \$11 million under this initiative, critical funds to help you improve your military forces so we can continue working together for the cause of peace and freedom.

Mongolia has undertaken political and economic reforms. You have now held numerous free elections and two peaceful transitions of power from one party to another, which is a sign of a successful democracy. This year, Mongolia ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and I urge your Parliament to pass the anti-corruption legislation needed to implement that treaty. After decades of centralization, you

privatized more than 80 percent of Mongolia's state enterprises, and the Mongolian economy grew at a rate of more than 10 percent last year.

In recognition of your progress, Mongolia has been named a country eligible for assistance under the Millennium Challenge Account, a new program the United States has established to assist countries that govern justly, invest in their people, and promote economic freedom. My administration is committed to working with your country to complete a Millennium Challenge compact as soon as possible and to help the Mongolian people continue on the path of reform.

Next year, your country will celebrate the 800th anniversary of the founding of Mongolia. There's a legend of a Mongolian woman who gave each of her five sons an arrow. She told each to break the arrow in his hand, which they did. She then tied the five arrows together, and told each to try and break the bundle. None could do it. And she told them, brothers who stand alone like single arrow shafts can be broken by anyone, but brothers who stand together like a bundle of arrows cannot be broken. Today, Mongolia and the United States are standing together as brothers in the cause of freedom. And if free nations remain united, no force of tyranny or terror will break us.

I've come here to thank you for your contributions to freedom's cause and to tell you that the American people appreciate your courage and value your friendship. And on behalf of all Americans, *ikh bayarlalaa*. And may God bless your wonderful country. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:13 p.m. in the Conference Hall at the Government House. In his remarks, he referred to President Nambaryn Enkhbayar and his wife, Onongiin Tsolmon, and Prime Minister Tsakhia Elbegdorj of Mongolia.

Joint Statement Between Mongolia and the United States of America

November 21, 2005

President George W. Bush and President Nambaryn Enkhbayar today reaffirmed the longstanding friendship between the United States of America and Mongolia and com-

mitted to defining guiding principles and expanding the framework of the comprehensive partnership between their two democratic countries based on shared values and common strategic interests, as declared in the Joint Presidential Statement of July 15, 2004.

On behalf of the American people, President Bush expressed his appreciation for the outpouring of sympathy and generous financial assistance from the government and people of Mongolia for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. President Bush welcomed Mongolia's progress toward becoming a mature and stable democracy, which observes human rights and civil liberties, and a private sector-led free market economy.

He congratulated the people of Mongolia, on behalf of the American people, for qualifying for eligibility for the Millennium Challenge Account, and looked forward to the successful conclusion of a Compact that will reduce poverty through economic growth and reflect the Government of Mongolia's commitment to continued political and economic reform. Mindful of the role that rule of law, good governance, transparency, and public sector accountability play in building democracy and prosperity, the two presidents welcomed Mongolia's recent ratification of the UN Convention Against Corruption.

The two presidents agreed to work together to facilitate Mongolia's participation in regional and international political, economic and financial structures. They also agreed to enhance their cooperation against all forms of organized, transnational crime, to include trafficking in people, counterfeiting, money-laundering, and terrorist financing. President Bush welcomed Mongolia's support for the Proliferation Security Initiative to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and for its commitment to sign and ratify the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

The two presidents reviewed the work being conducted under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) to promote bilateral trade and investment, and expressed the hope that this will lead to a closer bilateral economic and trade relationship.

Recognizing the potential threat to human health posed by avian and other forms of influenza, the two presidents agreed on the importance of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza.

President Bush and President Enkhbayar underscored their strong commitment to fight terrorism, which undermines international peace and security. President Bush applauded Mongolia's participation in the stabilization and reconstruction of Afghanistan and Iraq, including its peacekeeping commitment to the Multinational Force in Iraq. The United States and Mongolia agreed to continue working to advance Mongolia's contribution to international peace support efforts.

They also agreed that the establishment of a free, democratic Iraq is important to democracy, peace and stability in the Middle East and the United Nations should play a leading role in the process. The two leaders underlined the importance of multilateral cooperation and, in this context, agreed on the need to pursue reform of the United Nations as a means to improving its effectiveness. President Bush and President Enkhbayar also emphasized the importance of implementing the September 2005 Joint Statement on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, issued by the members of the Six Party Talks.

The two presidents affirmed the value of educational and cultural exchanges to enhance understanding between the citizens of the two countries and agreed to promote people-to-people exchanges and educational cooperation. President Bush also expressed appreciation for the ratification of the bilateral International School of Ulaanbaatar Agreement which will help to ensure the availability of high quality, U.S.-accredited education for its students. The presidents noted the successful and positive contribution of the Peace Corps program in Mongolia.

The two presidents stated their expectations for the continued and steady growth of the U.S.-Mongolia relationship, based on mutual respect and equitable partnership, and reaffirmed that such growth will be in the national interest of both countries.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Proclamation 7964—National Family Week, 2005

November 21, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Families give our society direction and purpose. During National Family Week, we celebrate the many contributions families make to our country.

Throughout America's history, families have been the foundation of our society and a source of stability and love for every generation. Strong families teach children to live moral lives and help us pass down the values that define a caring society. By nurturing a child's personal development and providing a safe environment for growth, families prepare our Nation's youth to realize the promise of America. Family is one of the three cornerstones of the Helping America's Youth initiative, led by First Lady Laura Bush. We are working with families, schools, and communities to help children make right choices and build healthy, successful lives. Through USA Freedom Corps, my Administration is also providing opportunities for families to volunteer together and make a positive difference in their communities.

At this crucial hour in the history of freedom, our Nation is grateful for the sacrifice of our military families who love and support the men and women of our Armed Forces. My Administration is committed to providing a better quality of life for our military families and helping them plan for the future. During National Family Week and throughout the year, Americans stand solidly behind the men and women of our Armed Forces and join all military families as they pray for the safety and strength of their sons and daughters, husbands and wives, and fathers and mothers.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 20

through November 26, 2005, as National Family Week. I invite the States, communities, and all the people of the United States to join together in observing this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation's families.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:59 a.m., November 22, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 23.

Memorandum on the National Flood Insurance Program

November 21, 2005

Memorandum for the Secretary of Homeland Security

Subject: National Flood Insurance Program

I have reviewed your request for approval to issue notes to the Secretary of the Treasury in excess of \$3.5 billion, but not to exceed \$18.5 billion, for the National Flood Insurance Program and am hereby granting approval for you to do so.

George W. Bush

Remarks at the Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony

November 22, 2004

Thank you all. Welcome to the White House. Thank you for coming this afternoon. It's a pleasure to be able to introduce you, soon, to the National Thanksgiving Turkey. His name is Marshmallow. *[Laughter]* The alternative turkey's name is Yam. *[Laughter]* He's around here somewhere. He's not going to be in this room. He's in a pickup truck hanging out by the South Lawn. *[Laughter]*

This is what we call—the White House is called the people's house, and we're going to call Marshmallow and Yam the people's

turkeys. They made it here through a democratic process. There was a nationwide election on the White House web site. In the end, the voters made the choice, and it was a close election. You might say it was neck and neck. *[Laughter]*

I'm going to grant a pardon this afternoon, and the pardon I grant comes with a new measure of responsibility and fame for Marshmallow and Yam. In the past years, the turkeys I spared went on to lead lives of leisure at Frying Pan Park in the State of Virginia. This year is going to be a little different. Marshmallow and Yam were a little skeptical about going to a place called Frying Pan Park. I don't blame them. So I'm proud to announce that Marshmallow and Yam will serve as honorary grand marshals at Disneyland's Thanksgiving Day Parade. And they'll go on to spend the rest of their natural lives at Disneyland.

The granting of the turkey pardon is not a responsibility that I take lightly, and I want to thank all of those who helped plan today's event. I appreciate the efforts of those of you from the National Turkey Federation, especially Chairman Pete Rothfork and president Alice Johnson. Welcome. Glad you all are here. I want to thank James and Vicki Trites from Trites Farm in Henning, Minnesota. Where are they, the Trites? There they are, right there. Welcome. Thanks for coming. I know that Marshmallow and Yam are going to feel pretty good strutting around sunny California, remembering the cold days of Minnesota. *[Laughter]* Glad you all are here.

We've also got some other special guests in the audience who exemplify the spirit of Thanksgiving. And those are the students from Clarksville Elementary School, from Clarksville, Maryland. Anybody here from Clarksville Elementary? Welcome. We're glad you're here. Thanks for coming. These students raised more than \$17,000 for the Red Cross fund to benefit Hurricane Katrina victims. Thanks a lot for your hard work in helping somebody else. They're here with the assistant principal, Amy Green. I suspect some teachers and parents are here with them. Thank you all for teaching. Thanks for being good parents. Their compassion and

dedication show the good heart of our country, and I'm proud you all are here at the White House.

Thanksgiving is a holiday rooted in the American spirit of gratitude and sharing. We see this spirit in America today. When the communities along the gulf coast were devastated by Hurricane Katrina, Americans came together to provide help for their neighbors in need. It was a remarkable outpouring of compassion and generosity. That outpouring of compassion demonstrated once again that the great strength of our country lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens.

We also give thanks on Thanksgiving for our many blessings, and we thank those who are far away from home who protect our freedoms. It's through the courage and skill of our Armed Forces that we're safe as a nation, and we're very proud of their service.

We think of our military families who will have an empty seat at the table this Thanksgiving. The American people are thankful for the sacrifice of the American military families as well. America's men and women in uniform and their families have our gratitude, not only on Thanksgiving but on every day.

Our guest of honor seems about ready to come on in and say hello. So without further ado, I grant Marshmallow and Yam a Presidential pardon. In the meantime, may God bless you all and your families during this Thanksgiving season.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:11 p.m. in Presidential Hall at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

Statement on Signing the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006

November 22, 2005

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 2862, the "Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006." The Act funds the Departments of Justice, Commerce, and State, and several independent agencies, including the Federal Trade Commission, the Small Business Ad-

ministration, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The executive branch shall construe as advisory the provisions of the Act that purport to direct or burden the Executive's conduct of foreign relations, including the authority to recognize foreign states and negotiate international agreements on behalf of the United States, or limit the President's authority as Commander in Chief. These provisions include sections 405, 413, 414, 631, 637, and language under the headings "International Trade Administration, Operations and Administration" and "Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities."

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 22, 2005.

NOTE: H.R. 2862 approved November 22, was assigned Public Law No. 109-108.

Message on the First Anniversary of the Orange Revolution

November 22, 2005

I send greetings to those celebrating the first anniversary of the Orange Revolution.

One year ago today, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian citizens stood up to defend democracy in their homeland. Through great courage and determination, they showed the world that the love of liberty is stronger than the will of tyranny. Last year's revolution was a powerful example of freedom and democracy in action and an inspiration to those aspiring for freedom in their own land.

Ukraine's leadership now faces an historic opportunity and has an historic responsibility to fulfill the promise of the Orange Revolution and continue to transform Ukraine into a fully democratic state. The United States will continue to support the efforts of President Viktor Yushchenko in advancing a democratic, prosperous, and secure Ukraine, and America is proud to call Ukraine a friend.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Presidential Determination Pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as Amended

November 22, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2006-04

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination Pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as Amended

Pursuant to section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2601(c)(1), I hereby determine that it is important to the national interest that up to \$5 million be made available from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund to meet unexpected urgent humanitarian needs of refugees and other victims of the October 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. These funds may be used, as appropriate, to provide contributions to international, governmental, and non-governmental organizations.

You are authorized and directed to inform the appropriate committees of the Congress of this determination and the obligation of funds under this authority, and to arrange for the publication of this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 29, 2005]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 30.

Proclamation 7965—National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2005

November 22, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, we renew our efforts to educate all Americans about the tragic consequences of impaired driving and encourage all Americans to drive responsibly.

Every year, too many of our citizens get behind the wheel of an automobile after drinking alcohol or using drugs. This puts drivers, passengers, and others on the road at risk. Last year alone, drunk driving killed more than 16,000 people and accounted for more than 30 percent of all motor vehicle deaths.

My Administration remains committed to saving lives and preventing injuries resulting from drunk and drugged driving. The Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration oversees the "You Drink & Drive. You Lose." program, which educates our citizens about the dangers of driving under the influence. This campaign also encourages lifesaving measures to help keep impaired drivers off the road—including sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols, and prosecution of those who break the law. To protect our Nation's young people and deter underage drinking, the Helping America's Youth initiative, led by First Lady Laura Bush, is promoting positive youth development and educating our children about the dangers associated with alcohol and drug use. With the help of parents, educators, and faith-based and community organizations, this initiative teaches our children to avoid alcohol and drug use, make healthy choices, and build lives of purpose.

Keeping drunk and drugged drivers off the road is vital for the safety of our loved ones and fellow citizens. All Americans can encourage responsible actions and work to ensure that those around them do not operate a vehicle while under the influence. When law enforcement, communities, and individuals unite against impaired driving, lives are

saved and our Nation's roadways are made safer for everyone.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 2005 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. I encourage all Americans to help keep our Nation's roadways safe by making responsible decisions and taking appropriate measures to prevent drunk and drugged driving.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:09 a.m., November 29, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 23, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 30.

Executive Order 13391—Blocking Property of Additional Persons Undermining Democratic Processes or Institutions in Zimbabwe
November 22, 2005

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in order to take additional steps with respect to the continued actions and policies of certain persons who undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes and with respect to the national emergency described and declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003,

I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, hereby order:

Section 1. The Annex to Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003, is replaced and su-

perseded in its entirety by the Annex to this order.

Sec. 2. Section 6 of Executive Order 13288 is renumbered as section 8. Sections 1 through 5 of Executive Order 13288 are replaced with new sections 1 through 7 as follows:

“Section 1. (a) Except to the extent provided in section 203(b)(1), (3), and (4) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(1), (3), and (4)), and in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding any contract entered into or any license or permit granted prior to the effective date of this order, all property and interests in property of the following persons, that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons, including their overseas branches, are blocked and may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt in:

(i) the persons listed in the Annex to this order; and

(ii) any person determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

(A) to have engaged in actions or policies to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions;

(B) to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, such actions or policies or any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order;

(C) to be or have been an immediate family member of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order; or

(D) to be owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order.

(b) I hereby determine that the making of donations of the type of articles specified in section 203(b)(2) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(2)) by, to, or for the benefit of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section would seriously impair my

ability to deal with the national emergency declared in this order, and I hereby prohibit such donations as provided by paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) The prohibitions in paragraph (a) of this section include but are not limited to (i) the making of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services by, to, or for the benefit of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order, and (ii) the receipt of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services from any such person.

Sec. 2. (a) Any transaction by a United States person or within the United States that evades or avoids, has the purpose of evading or avoiding, or attempts to violate any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited.

(b) Any conspiracy formed to violate any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited.

Sec. 3. For the purposes of this order:

(a) the term “person” means an individual or entity;

(b) the term “entity” means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture, corporation, group, subgroup, or other organization; and

(c) the term “United States person” means any United States citizen, permanent resident alien, entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States (including foreign branches), or any person in the United States.

Sec. 4. For those persons whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order who might have a constitutional presence in the United States, I find that, because of the ability to transfer funds or other assets instantaneously, prior notice to such persons of measures to be taken pursuant to this order would render these measures ineffectual. I therefore determine that, for these measures to be effective in addressing the national emergency declared in this order, there need be no prior notice of a listing or determination made pursuant to section 1(a) of this order.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is hereby authorized to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regula-

tions, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this order. The Secretary of the Treasury may redelegate any of these functions to other officers and agencies of the United States Government, consistent with applicable law. All agencies of the United States Government are hereby directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of this order and, where appropriate, to advise the Secretary of the Treasury in a timely manner of the measures taken.

Sec. 6. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is hereby authorized to determine, subsequent to the issuance of this order, that circumstances no longer warrant the inclusion of a person in the Annex to this order and that the property and interests in property of that person are therefore no longer blocked pursuant to section 1(a) of this order.

Sec. 7. This order is not intended to create, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.”

Sec. 3. This order is not intended to create, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

Sec. 4. This order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. eastern standard time, November 23, 2005.

Sec. 5. This order shall be transmitted to the Congress and published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 22, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:16 a.m., November 23, 2005]

NOTE: This Executive order released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 23, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 25.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
Blocking Property of Additional
Persons Undermining Democratic
Processes or Institutions in
Zimbabwe**

November 22, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order that amends Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003, and expands the authority for blocking property and interests in property.

Executive Order 13288 blocked the property of 77 persons responsible for hindering the democratic transition in Zimbabwe. It provided for the secondary designation of persons owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act, directly or indirectly, for or on behalf of any of the 77 persons listed in its Annex.

Since Executive Order 13288 was issued in March 2003, conditions in Zimbabwe have continued to deteriorate. The government continues to suppress opposition groups and civil society, undermine the independent media, ignore decisions by its courts, and refuse to enter into meaningful negotiations with other political actors. Zimbabwe's parliamentary elections in March 2005 were not free or fair. Recent demolitions of low income housing and informal markets have caused 700,000 people to lose their homes, jobs, or both. Additional measures are required to promote democratic change.

The new order adds primary designation authority to Executive Order 13288, as well as authority to designate immediate family members of, and those who provide support to, sanctioned persons. It also adds authority to determine that circumstances no longer warrant the blocking of property and interests in property of a person listed on the Annex. Specifically, the new order will allow the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to designate those who have engaged in actions or policies to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions, thus contributing to the deliberate breakdown in the rule of law in Zimbabwe, to politically motivated violence

and intimidation in that country, or to political and economic instability in the Southern African region. It will also allow for secondary designations of persons determined to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, such actions or policies or any persons sanctioned pursuant to Executive Order 13288, as amended (the "order"). It will further allow for the secondary designations of those persons who are or have been immediate family members of, or are owned or controlled by or acting for or on behalf of, any persons sanctioned pursuant to the order.

Accompanying the new order is an Annex that replaces and supersedes in its entirety the Annex to Executive Order 13288. This new Annex contains a revised list of persons whose property and interests in property are blocked by the President pursuant to section 1(a)(i) of the order, including key government and party officials and their family members.

The new order will provide needed flexibility as conditions in Zimbabwe evolve, allowing my Administration to more effectively utilize targeted sanctions to promote positive democratic change in Zimbabwe.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 23. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

**Message on the Second Anniversary
of the Rose Revolution**

November 23, 2005

I send greetings to all those commemorating the second anniversary of the Rose Revolution.

Freedom is the longing of the soul and the permanent hope of mankind. Two years ago, the desire for liberty inspired thousands

of Georgian citizens to reclaim their sovereignty and complete the journey to independence first begun in 1989 during the last days of the Soviet empire. These brave men and women, armed only with roses and the power of their convictions, stood up to claim liberty in their own country. Their actions began the Rose Revolution, inspiring those who believe in freedom and democratic reform around the world. In the two years since that peaceful revolution, the Georgian people have continued their contributions to freedom's cause and made significant progress in building a vibrant democracy.

The United States is committed to supporting democracy and the rule of law in Georgia and around the globe. I join all Americans in honoring the valiant Georgians who stood up against oppression and defended the right of all to be free. Your courage is an inspiration to those aspiring for freedom in their own land.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 19

In the morning, in Busan, South Korea, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Westin Chosun Hotel, he met with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia.

Later in the morning, at the Nurimaru APEC House, the President participated in the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit.

In the afternoon, the President participated in the APEC official lunch. He then

participated in the APEC Leaders' Declaration.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Osan, South Korea. Later, they traveled to Beijing, China, arriving in the evening.

November 20

In the morning, at the Great Hall of the People, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a welcoming ceremony.

In the afternoon, at the Diaoyutai Guest House, the President had a working lunch with Premier Wen Jiabao of China. Later, at LaoShan Olympic Mountain Biking Training Center, he went mountain biking with Chinese Olympic athletes.

In the evening, at the Great Hall of the People, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner with President Hu Jintao of China and his wife, Liu Yongqing.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Louisiana for the impacts of Hurricane Katrina from August 29 to November 1.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Mississippi for the impacts of Hurricane Katrina from August 29 to October 14.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Louisiana for the impacts of Hurricane Rita from September 23 to November 1.

November 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the St. Regis Hotel, he and Mrs. Bush greeted U.S. Embassy personnel and their family members. He and Mrs. Bush then traveled to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, arriving in the afternoon.

In the afternoon, at the Government House, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an arrival ceremony. Later, he had separate meetings with President Nambaryn Enkhbayar and Prime Minister Tsakia Elbegdorj of Mongolia.

Later in the afternoon, in Ikh Tenger, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a cultural event. Later, at Buyant-Ukhaa Airport, they greeted U.S. Embassy personnel

and their family members. They then returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael L. Dominguez to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

The President announced his intention to nominate Brafford R. Higgins to be Assistant Secretary of State (Resources Management) and Chief Financial Officer of the Department of State.

The President announced his intention to designate Rudy Pamintuan as Chairman of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The President declared a major disaster in North Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm and record and/or near record snow on October 4-6.

November 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

November 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel of Austria at the White House on December 8.

November 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had telephone conversations with members of the U.S. Armed Forces in Afghanistan and Iraq.

November 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 19

Transcripts of press briefings by NSC Senior Director for Asian Affairs Michael Green and Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs Faryar Shirzad

Statement by the Press Secretary on Iraq and the war on terror

Fact sheet: APEC 2005

Fact sheet: United States Leadership on Avian Influenza

Excerpts of the President's remarks to troops

Released November 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on the President's visit to China

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 72, H.R. 2419, and H.R. 4326

Statements by the Press Secretary on additional disaster assistance to Louisiana

Statement by the Press Secretary on additional disaster assistance to Mississippi

Released November 21

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 4133

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to North Dakota

Advance text of the President's remarks in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Released November 22

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2490, H.R. 2862, H.R. 3339, S. 161, S. 1234, S. 1713, and S. 1894

Released November 23

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Austrian Chancellor Schuessel

Statement by the Press Secretary: Blocking Property of Additional Persons Undermining Democratic Processes in Zimbabwe

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved November 19

H.R. 2419 / Public Law 109–103
Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2006

H.R. 4326 / Public Law 109–104
To authorize the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a contract for the nuclear refueling and complex overhaul of the U.S.S. Carl Vinson (CVN–70)

H.J. Res. 72 / Public Law 109–105
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes

Approved November 21

H.R. 4133 / Public Law 109–106
National Flood Insurance Program Further Enhanced Borrowing Authority Act of 2005

Approved November 22

H.R. 2490 / Public Law 109–107
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 West Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the “Mayor Joseph S. Daddona Memorial Post Office”

H.R. 2862 / Public Law 109–108
Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006

H.R. 3339 / Public Law 109–109
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2061 South Park Avenue in Buffalo, New York, as the “James T. Molloy Post Office Building”

S. 161 / Public Law 109–110
Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005

S. 1234 / Public Law 109–111
Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005

S. 1713 / Public Law 109–112
Iran Nonproliferation Amendments Act of 2005

S.1894 / Public Law 109–113
Fair Access Foster Care Act of 2005